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**HEALTH & WELFARE**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**TWIN FALLS SOCIAL WORKER PLEADS GUILTY TO MEDICAID FRAUD**

A Twin Falls social worker pleaded guilty Thursday to conspiring to defraud the federal government by billing Idaho's Medicaid program for services she did not provide.

Heidi McBride, operator of A Better Way Rehab, agreed to reimburse Medicaid \$128,000 her firm was paid for false mental health case management claims submitted between Dec. 15, 2001 and Oct. 1, 2003. Some of the false claims involved services allegedly provided to the wife and adult child of one of McBride's employees.

Mental health case management services assist clients with scheduling and arranging direct therapy. In Idaho, the federal government pays approximately 70 percent of every Medicaid claim.

McBride made her plea before U.S. District Court Magistrate Mikel Williams in Boise. Her charge resulted from a joint investigation by the Office of Inspector General and the Department of Health and Welfare's Surveillance and Utilization Review Unit. She is scheduled to be sentenced June 29.

Gary Goodman who was acting in conjunction with McBride has been charged with 25 counts of Health Care Fraud and one count of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States Government. He is scheduled for trial in federal court on April 5.

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**(Editors: For more information, contact Bill Walker at 208-334-5506.)**